Annual Report 2025—2026

Sittingbourne & Sheppey

Company Number: 7952821
Registered Charity Number: 1146356



Sittingbourne & Sheppey

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STAFF

Manager	Allison McColl *(30hrs)*
Family Support Worker	Wendy Tomlin *(15hrs)*
Administration / Volunteer Lead	Rebekah Peters *(16hrs)*
Family Support Worker (mental health)	Amy Garske (*10hrs*)
Group Lead	Michelle Ryback (*6hrs*)

TRUSTEES

Chair	Christine White
Vice Chair	Tracy Hodges
Treasurer	*Vacant position*
Bookkeeper	Tina Bean
Independent	Sylvia New
Independent	Fran Sinclair-Taylor

VOLUNTEERS

Maureen	Dilys
Catherine	Jemma
Ann	Georgie
Jo	Kelly
Joanna	Sonia

QA



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What is Home-Start?

Home-Start UK was founded by Margaret Harrison who set up the first Home-Start in Leicester in 1973. Home-Start UK is now the UKs leading family support charity. Home-Start UK is made up of 100+ schemes across the UK. Home-Start UK supports these schemes by providing training, policies, quality assurance, guidance and support.

Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey was established in 1994 by our Chair Christine White. Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey supports local families in need by matching them with a volunteer mentor. Volunteer mentors are trained to provide families with invaluable emotional and practical support within the families home. Support is provided in the families homes so individuality and confidentiality can be respected. We also support parents of multiple births through our Twins Group and help guide families towards support from other organisations such as local children's centres.

This year we have started offering a weekly Stay & Play Little Poppets. Our scheme is one of six Home-Starts in Kent that visit families in crisis to relieve the strain on families in need. We are often their only life-line as other services have now been cut meaning there are reduced options for family support. We help parents cope so they can be the best parent to their children by being able to provide the love and laughter their children need to flourish.

This year we have supported 55 families with a total of 132 children, families were supported for a total of 383 hours by our manager, family support workers and volunteer mentors. This year we have had a total of 10 volunteers.

Our Volunteer Mentors truly are the heart of Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey.

Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey follow safeguarding guidelines, policies and procedures set down by Home-Start UK. Home Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey are committed to safeguarding all children, young people and vulnerable adults. We have trained staff and trustees who use NSPCC guidelines for safer recruitment of staff, volunteers and board members to ensure that all individuals in the team are competent and safe to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Home-Starts 4 strategic commitments

GROWTH
A collective ambition to reach significantly more families

IMPACT
Home-Starts will be stronger together

INCLUSION
Home-Start will advance inclusion and equity in all we do

VOICE
Home-Starts will stand alongside families to make the case for support

Chairs report

Once again Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey have had an extremely successful positive and productive year.

I myself have been involved with the scheme since its conception over 30 years ago and I look back at the many ways in which this local charity has evolved over the years and has become one of Swale's foremost family support services. Myself and all the other volunteer trustees are so very proud of what the organisation has achieved over the years.

During the period of 2025 to 2026 there has been significant growth in the service being offered. We now have five members of staff who all bring a variety of skills and knowledge to support the families who are finding life a bit of a struggle in the current times.

We have our existing Twins & Multiple Births Group started back in 1994 and we are pleased to announce that having recruited a group lead we are now able to offer a stay and play group. Both groups offer an extra dimension to the home visiting service and provide a safe, stimulating and gentle learning space where families can meet and make new friends.

We have a period of financial security with the lottery funding, extending the life of Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey until August 2028 although we intend to be around still supporting Swale families way beyond this.

Yours sincerely

Christine White

Christine White

Chair

The Scheme can proudly announce that since 2024 we have been working on Home-Start UK's Quality Assurance self-assessment process and have now been awarded the 8 of 8 quality kite marks, a really fantastic achievement. This demonstrates that the service we provide to the families in the community is of a high standard and meets all of the criteria needed to comply with Home-Start UK's regulations.

I cannot as always end this report with-out giving grateful thanks to our excellent staff team of Rebekah Peters, Wendy Tomlin, Michelle Ryback and Amy Garske all being supported by our committed and caring manager Allison McColl.

Finally, thanks to our dedicated and supportive board of volunteer trustees and also the many volunteers that help support and visit our families. We could not run our service without you all!



Managers report

What a year this has been for Home-Start Sittingbourne and Sheppey.

We were so grateful to Kent Community Foundation for giving us some funding which we used to ensure the scheme continued to offer families support while we waited for the lottery decision to fund us again.

In August 2025 we were delighted to be awarded £236,177 over 3 years. My thanks go out to the lottery players who make the funding possible and to Andy who worked with me to keep me focused.

Phase 2 of the SGN funding has been used to provide families with information, guidance, signposting and new skills to support them with their energy efficiency and staying safe & warm within the home. New families continue to be offered a snuggle basket and an energy efficient appliance which have been very well received.

I was contacted by a local businessman who wanted to provide some funding for the families so far, we have received a generous start up fund for a new SEND group for families who have children with complex disabilities. Food vouchers for Christmas and Easter. The scheme has also benefited from services in kind through a sharing of knowledge, skills and contacts.

The QA self-assessment process which is the Home-Start UK quality assurance kite mark for all schemes began in 2024 and the first round was completed in April 2026 we will continue to self-assess beginning again in May 2026.

This has ensured that all practice, policies, procedures and operations are at a very high level and this forms the basis for the excellent service we continue to provide for families in the community.

I have expanded the team and welcomed Amy in April 2025 as the Family Support Worker for families who are experiencing poor mental health. There continues to be an increase in referrals with an element of Mental health issues. Therefore, this post has been vital in supporting more complex families.

We also welcomed Michelle as our Group Lead to facilitate the already well-established Twins Group and a new Family group. Michelle is also keen to set up a group for parents who have a child with more complex needs and disabilities.

Welcome to you both.

We have seen a considerable rise in referrals this year, totaling 53, a rise of 14 from last year and our referrers are more diverse and come from a variety of professions.

I have now been part of Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey for over 23 years; it is and will remain my passion. I feel privileged to have worked with and continue working alongside such amazing families, staff, volunteers and board members. Thank you all.

Yours sincerely

Allison McColl

Allison McColl

Manager



Financial roundup







Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey would like to say a big thank you to the National Lottery who have funded our work for a further 3 years, taking us into 2028.

We would also like to thank the lottery players who make this possible.

The Awards for All funding which we secured in 2025 has a second year still to run and the outcomes we are achieving demonstrate the need for this type of funding.

We have been very fortunate to receive some funding from a local businessman. Families have benefitted from Christmas and Easter ALDI vouchers which were much appreciated by the families at a time when the children are off school and the cost of living is so high. We have a set up fund for a specialised group for parents of children with disabilities which we hope will come online in the near future.

The Kent Community Fund (KCF) gave us an amount of money in March 2025 which allowed us to keep the service running whilst the lottery made their decision to fund us. We would like to thank the KCF for this vital funding.

KMFM kindly donated toys at Christmas which were received with appreciation from the families.

The SGN funding in partnership with Home-Start UK ended in March 2025. This funding has provided families with a comprehensive information exchange around energy efficiency and has provided families with snuggle packs and an energy efficient appliance.

In summary Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey are financially in a good place and are able to offer families an excellent service along with some additional extras.

Family journeys

Local families are supported by our volunteer mentors, family support workers and the manager. Here are two of the families journeys from 2025-26.

I began supporting this family in September 2025. At that time, the family consisted of four members, with Mum expecting their third child. Dad had previously worked full-time but was involved in a car accident, which resulted in chronic, long-term pain and has prevented him from returning to work. As a result, both parents are currently at home. Child one attended nursery five mornings per week, and in January 2026, child two also started nursery. Although it took some time for child two to settle, this provided Mum and Dad with valuable time each morning to manage household tasks and appointments.

In February 2026, the family received notice from their letting agent that their landlord intended to sell the property and that they would need to vacate by 4th April. Receiving this news only a few weeks before mum's due date caused significant stress and uncertainty. To support the family, I sourced moving boxes to help them begin packing ahead of the move. The family relocated to their new home shortly after the birth of child three, during which time Mum was recovering from a caesarean section and was understandably limited in what she could physically manage. A significant area of support has been child one's behaviour. Child one is a lively and energetic child but has struggled with anger and emotional regulation, often displaying aggressive behaviour towards Mum and child two, as well as shouting and using inappropriate language. To support the family, I provided a personalised reward chart and sticker book and researched strategies to reduce swearing, which I shared with Mum. These interventions were initially successful, and the swearing reduced considerably, with child one even encouraging others not to swear. However, following the arrival of child three, this behaviour re-emerged.

The family also found it challenging to establish consistent routines for the children, particularly child one. More recently, I created and laminated a visual routine board, along with accompanying activity cards, to help provide structure and predictability. The family has reported positive progress using this tool, and I have encouraged them to continue using it consistently. Mum accessed the Right to Choose pathway and successfully obtained an Autism diagnosis for child one, although there was a lengthy wait for the assessment report. Following this, Mum asked for support with a Disability Living Allowance (DLA) application, which I completed alongside her. The application has now been submitted, and the family is awaiting an outcome. In addition, I am currently supporting the family in seeking a referral to CAMHS/ CYPMHS, as child one's anger and aggressive behaviours remain a concern, particularly with his transition to school approaching in September. Throughout my involvement, Mum and Dad have been extremely appreciative of the support provided and have shared positive feedback regarding the difference it has made to their family.

We recently had the absolute pleasure of standing alongside three asylum seeking families who were referred to us by three separate agencies. Their journeys are very individual, but they have all suffered unimaginable trauma, cruelty, loss and life changing experiences. Some of the needs identified by the referrers included:

providing a listening ear, providing a safe trusting relationship & addressing isolation and mental health issues

providing support with the emotional impact on the parents and children, help processing loss & help navigating a new existence

providing assistance navigating the Home Office procedures and all of the paperwork/communications that have to be understood with very little English

For these three families we have offered weekly visits by one person that they can begin to trust and feel at ease with who won't need to ask them to keep explaining their circumstances or their journey. We provide calmness, tenderness and offer reassurance. We try to bring a little joy and laughter where we can, confidence to go out into the community, introduce them to churches where they can find some peace as their faith is very important to them.

It is beyond our ability to imagine what their journeys have been like and in that way, we cannot begin to understand, but we can be there each week with a smile, a hug.

Imagine the loneliness of sitting in a room for days or weeks with no one to talk to, nothing you hold dear, nothing that is familiar to you, no family. Yes, you know you are among the lucky ones to be alive, but your solitude and journey are crushing.

By visiting these families each week, we can bring a little hope.

FEEDBACK

FAMILIES

We asked the families we support what does Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey mean to you?

I feel less isolated as I have weekly visits which is my only outlet and support I get. Having someone to talk to and not feel judged. Home-Start means a lot to me.

I wasn't aware of Home-Start until I was referred, I'm glad I was. The only conversations I had were with my children on a daily basis so speaking to another adult who understood my feelings and had been through similar, made me feel less alone and that I was heard. Times were harder than others but I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to have someone to cry to or vent to instead of keeping it in like I usually do.

I get company and motivation to complete tasks around the house that I would usually find difficult. I have also received parenting tips and housework ideas to help reduce the day to day pressure.

Thank you so much for all the support, I feel so much more confident. It was lovely to have someone to talk to who wasn't family.

I believe Allison has made me a more stronger and confident version of myself, although I'm not truly healed, because of Allison I am seeing things differently and trying to be the best version of myself for my children and that's because someone listened, didn't judge and made me feel safe. Highly recommend and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Home-Start mean hope, support and knowing that I am not alone during a difficult time. Having someone who listen without judgement. Kindness and reassurance that families don't have to face difficult times on their own. To me Home-Start is more than just a service. It's a reminder that with the right support people can rebuild confidence.

Thank you so much for all the support I feel better able to cope with my children's challenging behaviour. All of the issues we had are now resolved so the weekly support has made a huge difference.

Their support has been great, they have helped me a lot and have even helped advocate for me. I feel like I have received more support than I originally expected or asked for. Particularly with my child's needs with suspected autism/adhd.

This is a lifeline for twin mums to get out the house, children to socialise and to speak to others in the same boat! Thank you.
—Twins Group attendee.

Home-Start have been amazing help for me. From keeping an eye on my little one while I'm cooking, to listening to my dramas of the week my lovely lady Wendy has been amazing. I cannot thank you enough.

I enjoy the company and the help for my kids and the information and support for my ASD child. Very friendly and easy to talk to and exceptional with the children.

Family Support Worker report







I pride myself on being a caring, non-judgemental listener who is passionate about supporting families through life's ups and downs. With a background in nursery settings, I bring extensive professional experience of working with children into my role. This experience enables me to support families with a wide range of needs, including establishing routines, managing behaviour, encouraging learning through play, and navigating key developmental stages such as weaning, teething, and potty training.

The support I offer is tailored to the individual needs of each family. This year, I have worked closely with a few families to help manage behaviour and establish consistent routines and boundaries. As part of this support, I have created personalised resources, including 'Now & Then' boards, 'Morning and Evening Routine' boards, reward charts, and sticker books.
I genuinely enjoy my work and gain a great deal of satisfaction from knowing that I am making a positive difference in people's lives by providing practical and much needed support.

I am committed to helping families thrive and believe that kindness, understanding, and a listening ear can have a significant impact. By building trusting relationships and offering tailored support, I aim to empower families through both everyday challenges and important life transitions.



Yours sincerely

Wendy Tomlin

Wendy Tomlin

Family Support Worker

Family Support Worker report

Since I joined in May 2025, as a family support worker specialising in mental health, I've had the privilege of working with eight different families, all with very different needs and situations. This has helped me learn how to adapt the support I give to suit each family and what works best for them.

I've worked with some of my families for as long as seven months now and continue to work with them, and during that time I've built really strong relationships with both parents and children. I feel proud to have been someone they can trust and feel comfortable with.



I've been lucky enough to support parents through some really important moments, including collecting a child from their very first day at nursery. Being part of milestones like that has been really special.



I've also worked with asylum-seeking families who have endured so much and are living with very uncertain futures. Despite the challenges they face, we have still been able to build positive relationships and focus on doing the very best we can for the children.

I've supported parents by giving them tools and ideas to help with their mental health struggles, as well as helping with bedtime routines, meal ideas, and behavioural issues with children.



A big part of my role has also been just being there to listen. I've supported parents through financial worries, anxiety, and bereavement, and I hope I've helped them feel heard and less alone during difficult times.

I've also had lots of fun with the children through play and have shared so many laughs and giggles with my families. My visits can be as simple as sitting and listening, or doing activities with the children like going for walks to the beach to collect shells.

I always try to be a cheerleader for parents, reassuring them, reminding them how well they are doing, and helping them see the positives in the middle of the crazy world of parenting.

Overall, this last year has been really rewarding, and I'm proud of the relationships I've built and the support I've been able to give.

Yours sincerely

Amy Garske

Amy Garske

Family Support Worker

Group Report









Yours sincerely

Michelle Ryback

Michelle Ryback

Family Support Worker

Little Poppets

Home Start Sittingbourne and Sheppey are delighted to share the news that we started our free weekly Stay and Play for families with children under 5 years of age at the beginning of March 2026. I was lucky enough to join Home Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey in November 2025 and I was tasked with finding a venue and starting up this much needed family group. It was tricky to find a suitable venue but eventually we settled in the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in Sittingbourne, this hall offered a large space, kitchen if required and a large storage area to store all the toys and equipment needed when setting up the group. I began sourcing a variety of toys, mats and craft equipment, many of which were donated which was fantastic. Advertising and getting the word out was my next task. We opened the doors for the first time on 4th March 2026 with 7 families joining us. I feel this was a great success as these families have continued to attend on a weekly basis. They have formed friendships and it's been wonderful to watch the children grow in confidence, the parents swapping stories and supporting each other.

For the group I make homemade play dough which the children love playing with. Each week I change the equipment with the playdough and watch the children get creative. I also provide a weekly craft activity which I try to ensure are seasonal or join in with festivities, this has proven to be a hit with the parents and children with some parents enjoying some crafting time while I or our lovely volunteer Joanna entertain the children. I am trying to increase the number of attendees but I feel it is positive that the families who have attended are settled and enjoying it. Over the summer we plan to offer some park meets and picnics.

Twins Group

Home-Start Sittingbourne and Sheppey have again continued to offer our unique Twins & Multiple Births Group for another great year. When I joined the team I shadowed Wendy. The families were very friendly and welcoming. I then spent my first week with them asking what they wanted from the group moving forwards. Suggestion included more messy play, art and craft and more group singing. I now provide home-made play dough & general craft activities with lots of glue and sticking for children and parents to participate in. I have also introduced a tidy up time song to sing ten minutes before the end of the session which the children appear to enjoy.

In March we relocated the Twins Group to the Holy Trinity Parish Hall where our new stay & play meet, this allows us to coordinate the allocation & rotation of toys and activities, and gives the flexibility for more messy play and arts & crafts. We currently have 16 families registered, 7 regular families & 17 children at both of our groups.

The families and children have all made wonderful friendships and connections at our Twins Group, they even meet up regularly outside of the group. The first Twins Group at the new venue was a great success with 5 families and 11 children coming along. Both of our groups are free, families are welcome to pop along.

Volunteer recruitment

This year we celebrate another hugely successful year for recruitment. Throughout the year we have had steady progress in recruiting volunteers and have successfully managed the need for volunteers with the flow of referrals. This year we are on track to reach our target of twelve volunteers, with ten volunteers on file and two potential volunteers ready to begin their training. We have matched all eight of our active volunteers with families in need of support. Being able to match all of our active volunteer mentors with families in need is a significant achievement.

As of March 2026, eighty-seven potential volunteers have expressed interest in our volunteer mentor role. This is almost double when compared to last year. Of these, twenty-six have attended an initial meeting to discuss volunteering in more depth. Twenty of whom have completed an application form.



As of March 2026, we currently have a total of eight active volunteer mentors, all of whom are fully trained and matched with a local family. We were delighted to welcome a new group support volunteer at our new family stay & play Little Poppets. Our wonderful eight volunteer mentors dedicated a total of 262 hours offering home visiting support, two other volunteers dedicated a total of 54 hours offering group support at our stay & plays.



This year we continued to recruit trustees and are actively seeking a treasurer. In total we have received fifteen expressions of interest from individuals interested in joining our board of trustees.

I still find that posting on Indeed is the most effective route when it comes to recruiting volunteers, although we have had huge success through word of mouth. This year we attended the Sittingbourne Job Fair, where thirty-two individuals expressed an interest in volunteering with Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey in one way or another.



Sittingbourne job fair booth

As always, it is incredibly rewarding to witness the results of my hard work reflected in the ability to effectively manage the need for volunteers with the flow of referrals. Without volunteers Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey would not be able to provide the compassionate, non-judgemental support that makes such a difference to local families in need. I am so thankful to be part of such an amazing team and privileged to witness the positive impact our volunteers have on the lives of local families. I look forward to building on this year's success.

Volunteer statistics (as of March 2026)

Number of volunteers expressed interest	87
Number attended initial meeting	26
Number received an application form from	20
Number of active volunteers	8
Number unable to commit	65
Expressed interest in trustee role	15

Yours sincerely

Rebekah Peters

Rebekah Peters

Volunteer Recruitment Lead

STATISTICS

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

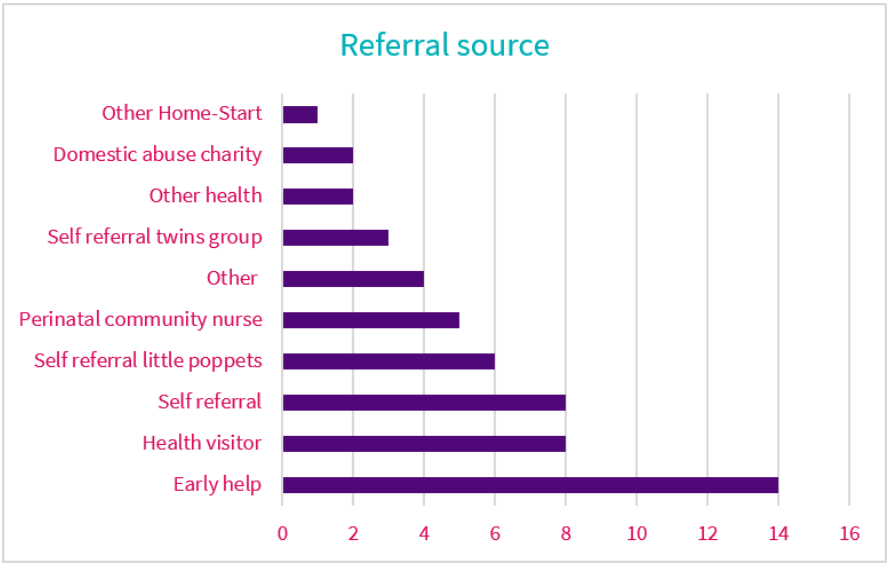
Number of referrals **53** + 36% since last year

Number of families supported **55** (36 home visiting, 12 twins group, 7 little poppets)
Includes families carried over from previous year

Number of children supported **132** + 18% since last year

Children supported ages & gender	Male	Female	Total
1st April 2024 - 31st March 2026 (0-2 years)	37	21	58
1st April 2021- 31st March 2023 (3-5 years)	16	14	30
Before 31st March 2020 (6+ years)	21	20	41
Unknown / unspecified	3	0	3
Total	77	55	132

REFERRALS & SUPPORT



% of referrals that lead to support **60%**

Family Circumstances

Refugee/asylum seeker	2
Lone parent	17
Debt/finances	3
Speech and language issues	8
Domestic abuse	12
Adult with disability	1
Adult with ADHD/Autism/SEN	5
Child with ADHD/ Autism/SEN	15
Adult mental health	23

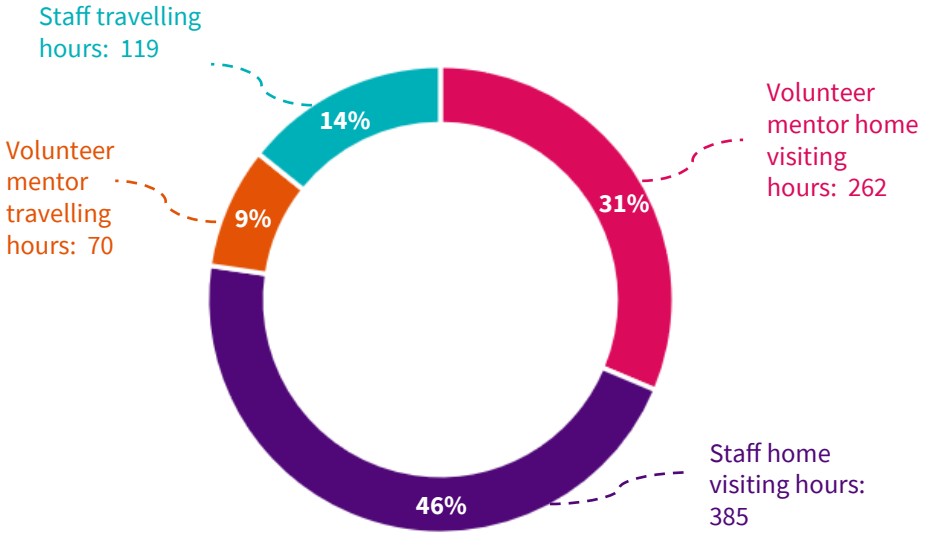
Needs identified by family at initial visit

Level of coping on day of visit 0 = not coping very well 5 = coping very well	1	2	3	4	5
Managing children's behaviour		4	4	4	1
Being involved in the children's development/learning		4	7	3	1
Coping with physical health		5	8	2	2
Coping with mental health		10	19	3	1
Coping with feeling isolated		7	23	4	1
Parent's self-esteem		11	20	4	1
Coping with child's physical health		1	1	3	2
Coping with child's mental health		1	2	3	2
Managing the household budget		1	2	1	1
The day-to-day running of the home		3	3	1	2
Stress caused by conflict in the family		1	4	3	2
Coping with multiple birth/children under 5		1	2	2	1
Use of services		2	8	2	2
Other			2		

STATISTICS

Total hours spent supporting families during 2025-26 through home visiting: 647

+ 59% since last year



Length of support for families that ended support in 2025-26:

Length of support	
Under 6 months	10
6 -12 months	9
1 year to 2 years	6
2 years to 3 years	
Over 3 years	

All of our families are supported weekly through home-visiting carried out by the Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey manager, family support workers and volunteer mentors (excluding those who are supported by attending our Twins & Little Poppets stay and play groups). The manager also visits each family to carry out reviews, during these visits scoring sheets are completed to demonstrate the progress of how Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey support is going. During 2025-26 a total of 25 families ended support. Support ends for numerous reasons such as—the family no longer has a child under the age of 5 because their youngest starts school, the family has moved out of the area or the family feels they are in a better position and therefore no longer require our support. The manager visits each family wanting to end their support to complete an ending visit. During this visit a final scoring sheet is completed to demonstrate if the families needs identified during their initial visit were met during their time of support.

Outcomes of needs identified by families at initial visit who ended support in 2025-26

Needs identified	Achieved	Partly	Not achieved
Managing children's behaviour	3	2	1
Being involved in the children's development	6	1	1
Coping with physical health	3	2	
Coping with mental health	12	5	1
Coping with feeling isolated	12	5	1
Parent's self-esteem	13	6	1
Coping with child's physical health	2	1	
Coping with child's mental health	4	1	
Managing the household budget	1		
The day-to-day running of the home	1	2	1
Stress caused by conflict in the family	4	3	
Coping with multiple birth/children under 5	2		
Use of services	5	1	



Our volunteers are the heart of everything we do here at Home-Start Sittingbourne and Sheppey. It is their commitment, generosity and kindness that allow us to stand alongside families. No matter the role, every volunteer within our Home-Start community is making a difference. Interim Chief Executive of Home-Start UK, Vivien Waterfield said: "At Home-Start, we know that real change starts in the home, and it grows from the kindness, time and belief of people who care. Every day, our volunteers, supporters, and partners bring that belief to life in the most powerful way''. **Everyone at Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey would love to say a heartfelt thank you to every single one of our home-visiting, group & trustee volunteers. You are the reason we can walk alongside families when they need it most, we simply couldn't do it without you.** Every visit, conversation, listening ear and act of kindness make a real difference to the families you support so **thank you.**

Our volunteers impact this year



This year our volunteers have generously offered 262 hours home visiting and 54 hours at our stay and play groups. Your generosity helps parents through some of the most challenging times in their lives, you simply being there creates long lasting positive change. Your kindness inspires us everyday, we are incredibly proud to have such an amazing team of volunteers.

The whole team at Home-Start Sittingbourne and Sheppey would like to say a special thank you to Maureen. Sadly this year our long standing volunteer Maureen has decided to end her volunteering journey with us. This gives us the opportunity to say a massive thank you to Maureen for her incredible 17 years of service. **THANK YOU MAUREEN.**

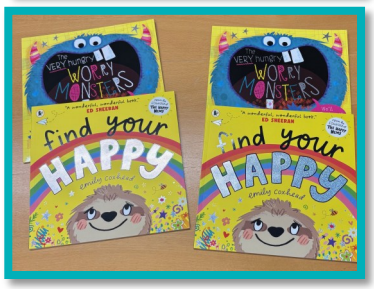
Thank you
for your support and donations

Home-Start Sittingbourne and Sheppey were extremely grateful to be included in this years KMFM's give a gift campaign. In December 2025 we were kindly invited to attend the KMFM radio station in Medway to collect as many toys as we'd like from this years donations. This year was a record breaking year for generosity throughout the give a gift campaign with 18,100 gifts being donated in total. Meaning we were very fortunate to be gifted enough toys for every single one of the children supported by ourselves. The toys (pictured) were all brand new and were wrapped and gifted to all of the families we supported in time for Christmas, any surplus toys have been gifted throughout the year to families when necessary (i.e. for birthdays).
Thank you KMFM.









signum

Home-Start Sittingbourne and Sheppey were extremely thankful to receive multiple donations from Signum International Limited throughout the year.

For Christmas 2025 Signum donated £2,600 to ensure every family supported received a £100 food voucher as every family deserves the joy of sharing good food at Christmas. Signum also donated £12,500 towards the set up costs of our new group. Lastly, £6,000 was donated at easter for the purchase of easter eggs & food vouchers.

Using the donations from Signum we were able to gift every family a voucher for food at Christmas and Easter, gift every child from each family supported an easter egg, gift of a find your happy book for parents to read to their children on world mental health day and a pamper pack for each mum supported by ourselves on mothers day (all gifts are pictured).
Thank you Signum International Limited.

Funding

Thank-you to the following for providing vital funding for our core work.



The Lottery Community Fund 2025-2028

(£236,177 over three years to fund core work)

Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey are thrilled to announce that we have been granted a further three years of funding from the national lottery to fund our core work. Thank you to the lottery & thank you to the national lottery players for making this a reality as without whom this three year funding would not be possible. To celebrate this funding Home-Start Sittingbourne Sheppey, staff, chair and volunteers took a photo with lottery officer Andy (pictured).

Healthy Minds Matter Fund

(£16,552 over two years to fund our healthy minds matter project)

Signum International Limited

(£20,000 + in donations for core work and gifts to families)

KCF

(£12,674 to fund core work)

SGN fuelling futures

(£11,472 year 2 funding for helping families stay safe and warm)



This year we gifted each family we support a safe and warm snuggle pack (pictured). This pack consisted of blankets and socks for mum & children and a microwaveable reindeer heat bag. Each family were also able to choose one large appliance of either an air fryer, heated clothes dryer or heated blanket. The snuggle packs are to keep the families warm and the electrical appliances were to help the families save on their energy costs.

We are truly touched by the generosity we received in 2025-26. So many funders and donors stepped up to help support our scheme. We are grateful to all who support us and the families we stand alongside. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all listed above who have provided funding and/or donations throughout the year 2025-26. Without your support local families wouldn't be able to receive the vital emotional and practical support they need.

HOME START
Sittingbourne & Sheppey

thankyou

for reading our report

Everyone at Home-Start Sittingbourne and Sheppey would like to thank you for taking the time to read our report.

Your support, time and belief in families help make a real difference to children and parents across Sittingbourne and Sheppey.





Sittingbourne & Sheppey

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial statements

Year ended 31st March 2026



First Floor, Central House,
Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 4NU
01795 429007
info@home-startsittingbourneandsheppey.org.uk
www.home-startsittingbourneandsheppey.org.uk
Company Number: 7952821
Registered Charity Number: 1146356

Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	10,000.00	79,162.00	—	89,162.00	62,753.00
Activities for generating funds	—	11,472.00	—	11,472.00	8,604.00
Other incoming resources	21,500.00	—	—	21,500.00	28.80
Total income	**31,500.00**	**90,634.00**	**—**	**122,134.00**	**71,385.80**
Resources used					
Costs of generating funds	(1,720.00)	1,720.00	—	—	2,397.25
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	2,809.22	4,508.23	—	7,317.45	3,272.26
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity	10,806.92	67,232.24	—	78,039.16	58,066.55
Total expenditure	**11,896.14**	**73,460.47**	**—**	**85,356.61**	**63,736.06**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**19,603.86**	**17,173.53**	**—**	**36,777.39**	**7,649.74**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	10,000.00	10,231.99	—	20,231.99	8,127.36
Gross transfers between funds - out	(20,231.99)	—	—	(20,231.99)	(8,127.36)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	**9,371.87**	**27,405.52**	**—**	**36,777.39**	**7,649.74**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**66,315.41**	**28,559.26**	**—**	**94,874.67**	**87,224.93**
Total funds carried forward	**75,687.28**	**55,964.78**	**—**	**131,652.06**	**94,874.67**
Represented by					
Designated					
Committment Money Fund	5,000.00	—	—	5,000.00	8,000.00
Core Account	28,815.21	—	—	28,815.21	36,662.50
Reserve Fund	23,372.91	—	—	23,372.91	21,652.91
Signum Fund	18,499.16	—	—	18,499.16	—
Restricted					
CommunityFund-Building Stronger Families	—	—	—	—	4,042.74
Firm Foundations	—	33,474.39	—	33,474.39	—
HSUK DCMS Volunteering	—	358.00	—	358.00	358.00
Healthy Minds Matter (AFA)	—	9,476.54	—	9,476.54	16,552.00
Safe & Warm	—	12,655.85	—	12,655.85	7,606.52

Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/03/2026	As at 31/03/2025
Current assets			
	BANK: Bank Account	131,609.95	94,832.56
	BANK2: Investment Account	—	—
	BNK: Bank Account	—	—
	CASH: Cash in Hand	42.11	42.11
	Z05: Accounts Receivable	—	—
	Total Current assets	**131,652.06**	**94,874.67**
Liabilities			
	Z04: Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	**—**	**—**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**131,652.06**	**94,874.67**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	36,777.39	7,649.74
	Z01: Starting balances	94,874.67	87,224.93
	Z03: Gains and losses own use	—	—
	Total Reserves	**131,652.06**	**94,874.67**

Represented by Funds

Unrestricted	—	—
Designated	75,687.28	66,315.41
Restricted	55,964.78	28,559.26
Endowment	—	—
Total	**131,652.06**	**94,874.67**

HOME START

Sittingbourne & Sheppey



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Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9:00am—1:00pm